

* 597 made by a man who was for a long time a highly successful trader on
556 the mainland of China. The only case of male adoptions by families which we know to have been poor were cases in which the family did not have to buy the child. These included the one case in which an agnate gave a boy in adoption to a village family, and one other in which a sīm-pūa was allowed to marry out of her foster family on the condition that she give her first born child to her foster brother whom she was to have married.

* 597 Unlike Chinese in many other parts of the country, the people of
593 Hsiachichou do not insist that an adopted son be of the same agnatic
[602] line as his foster parents. The attitude of people here is that "once you adopt a child he is your own no matter whom you adopt him from. It doesn't matter whether he is of the same blood or not." But while the people of Hsiachichou do not worry about the pedigree of a child bought from a stranger, they do worry very much about the child's loyalty to his foster parents. The child's parents may later attempt to persuade him to return to his natal family, or the child may himself discover the fact of his adoption and want to return to his parents. As an example of the dangers involved in buying a child our village informants often cited the current difficulties of a village woman by the name of Ong Chun-ieng. After having worked for a number of years as a prostitute in Taipei and Wanhua, Ong Chun-ieng adopted a male child whom she sent to live with her own foster mother in Hsiachi-
[276] chou. Later Ong Chun-ieng was arrested and imprisoned for using narco-
[689] tics, and the boy became part of a gang "living in air raid shelters and making their living by stealing."

159 but the stories they told me of his extra-marital activities are curiously
*5% loyal—vindictive only when they touch upon the behavior of his wife,
#59 the outsider. Chui-ieng's life is almost as bitter as she describes it, but
837 the villagers believe she brought it on herself.

When we came to live with the family, Lim Chieng-cua had not kept a mistress for some time. Chui-ieng occasionally nagged her husband about past infidelities, but in general, relations between them were tranquil. Lim Chieng-cua's most recent affair, and the one which still seemed to worry his wife, was his liaison with Lau Kim-chiok, the adopted daughter of one of his neighbors. Lim A-pou told me, "A few years ago Lim Chieng-cua had a mistress here in the village. She was a prostitute who was living just then with a man who worked nights in the winery. I know she wasn't married to this man because I saw her police book and his name wasn't in it.

"Both Lim Chieng-cua and his wife have hot tempers and they have quarreled from the day they married. She would never just accept his having a mistress or try to find some peaceful means of getting him to stay home at night. Instead, she used to go to the woman's house at night and beat on the doors and make a lot of noise. One night she even broke a window in the house. This really made my brother mad. She ran home and hid in my room. My father was still alive then, but that night he was disgusted and said he wouldn't interfere any more. Lim Chieng-cua tried to break down the door of the room to get at his wife, and I'm sure he would have killed her if my son hadn't pulled him away and calmed things down.

"Then in the middle of the night he had to go and find a workman to repair the window in that woman's house so the man she was living with wouldn't find out what was going on.

• [689] "Not long after this both the man and woman got put into jail for using narcotics. His sentence was a very long one because he had quarreled with some powerful *lo mua* before he got caught. She was given a sentence of three and a half years. She should be getting out soon now."

When Lau Kim-chiok was released, she returned to her mother's home in the village. Friends and neighbors came to see her, both to welcome her home and out of curiosity. Lim Chieng-cua who was in Taipei on business didn't return to the village until late in the evening, but when he did, he also went to pay his respects to his former mistress. According to my interpreter, who was also there, he was

427 is not married and still earns a good income in his trade
686 and the tenant is still poor with small children, the
692 same outcome of another extension is expected. But since
the owner is seeking a wife, he plans to argue that he
too will soon have small children to support. He does
not expect to regain possession of the land but rather,
to minimize the term of the extension and set the stage
for eventual control of the land after the next lease
termination. The owner is annoyed but does not feel the
decision was unreasonable. Other villagers agree the
owner had the law on his side and a legal claim to the
land. Nevertheless, they too agree the decision was the
only "fair" solution. The owner and tenant are neighbors
and although there are some hard feelings, overt expres-
sion of them was not observed.

674 There have been few formal arrests of villagers and
few occasions in which villagers have appeared before a
criminal court. The son of a villager with a repair shop
in town is serving a six-month sentence on a bad check
charge which he claims was caused by someone who stole his
689 "chop." Another villager was arrested twice for being
drunk and disorderly in Hsin Tien and each time, spent the
night in jail. In addition to a small fine, he was forced
[558] to listen to a stern lecture which caused him a great loss
of face.